



**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**  
**Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division**

October 29, 2008

**TO:** ALL OSHA  
**FROM:** Peggy Munsell, Manager, Standards & Technical Resources  
**SUBJECT:** Trailer Jacks

There have been questions about when Oregon OSHA requires employers to use jacks to support the nose end of trailers that are at loading docks but not attached to their tractor.

OAR 437-002-1910.178(k)(3) covers this issue as follows:

Fixed jacks may be necessary to support a semitrailer and prevent upending during the loading or unloading when the trailer is not coupled to a tractor.

The key word here is, "may." This leaves the decision about when to use trailer jacks up to the employer. They must consider all factors such as the length of the trailer, weight of the equipment used to work the trailer, position of the wheels and landing gear and the weight of the load that will be placed ahead of the landing gear.

Dock equipment like "grabbers" that hold the trailer in place are acceptable substitutes for jacks.